

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 TRSE-00 SAI-01 IO-14

OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 142007Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1348

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN REPS FEB 13, 1974

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TALKING POINTS BASED ON AGREED ALLIED TACTICS
PAPER AND APPROVED BY AD HOC GROUP PRIOR TO USE WHICH WAS
PRESENTED BY US REP TO SOVIET, POLISH AND DZECH REPS AT
INFORMAL SESSION FEB 13. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION IN VIENNA 1344.

BEGIN TEXT:

TALKING POINTS ON AREAS OF AGREEMENT

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(US-SOVIET GROUND FORCES)

1. AS WE HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED, WE ARE SEEKING TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A GENUINE DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE HAVE TO IDENTIFY A COMMON SUBJECT TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR SUCH DISCUSSION. IT WOULD BE WASTEFUL TO USE THESE INFORMAL SESSIONS MERELY FOR UNILATERAL PRESENTATION OF VIEWPOINTS OF EACH SIDE WHICH ARE ALREADY KNOWN. WE SHOULD IDENTIFY SOME SINGLE TOPIC ON WHICH WE CAN HAVE A GENUINE DIALOGUE AND GET MORE DEEPLY INTO THE SUBJECT THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE HERETOFORE.

3. FOR THE MOMENT, THIS PROCESS WILL BE INFORMAL AND WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENTS FROM EITHER SIDE. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM OF EITHER SIDE.

4. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU SIMPLY TO SET ASIDE YOUR PROGRAM, WHILE WE TALK ABOUT OURS.

5. INSTEAD, WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT A SUBJECT WHICH IS COMMON TO BOTH, AN AREA WHERE WE SEE A SIGNIFICANT OVERLAP BETWEEN THE APPROACHES OF THE TWO SIDES: NAMELY, US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES.

6. LET ME MAKE A FEW REMARKS TO SHOW WHAT I MEAN.

7. WHILE THE EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES DO OF COURSE DIFFER ON THE QUESTION OF WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN AGREEMENT, BOTH APPROACHES PROVIDE FOR REDUCTIONS IN GROUND FORCES.

8. AFTER ALL, GIVEN THE FACT THAT GROUND FORCES FORM BY FAR THE LARGEST COMPONENT IN THE FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES LOCATED IN THE AREA, EVEN UNDER THE EASTERN APPROACH THE BULK OF THE WITHDRAWALS WOULD HAVE TO BE IN GROUND FORCES.

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9. IT MAKES GOOD SENSE, THEREFORE, TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL THIS COMMON ELEMENT.

10. SIMILARLY, THOUGH WE DIFFER ON THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE FORCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE* ADDRESSED, BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES CALL FOR REDUCTIONS IN US AND SOVIET FORCES FROM THE OUTSET.

11. HERE, TOO, IT IS CLEA* THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION
WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN IN ANY EVENT TO THE SUBJECT OF US
AND SOVIET FORCES.

12. ON THE WESTERN SIDE, US FORCES MAKE UP A
SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE TOTAL.

13. ON THE EASTERN SIDE, SOVIET GROUND FORCES
COMPRISE ONE HALF OF THE TOTAL; THEREFORE, EVEN UNDER
THE EASTERN APPROACH, SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO
BE GIVEN TO THEM.

14. BUT THERE ARE MORE COMPELLING REASONS THAN
NUMBERS ALONE FOR REGARDING US AND SOVIET FORCES AS
BEING IN A SPECIAL CATEGORY.

15. WE HAVE GIVEN YOU SOME OF THESE REASONS ALREADY.
AMONG THEM ARE THE FOLLOWING:

---THE US AND USSR BEAR PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR
PRESERVING PEACE.

---US AND SOVIET FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE THE
LARGEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA.

---THESE FORCES REPRESENT A LINK TO THE STRATEGIC
FORCES OF THE TWO SO-CALLED "SUPER POWERS."

----THE DEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE
IS INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF LARGE SOVIET
FORCES THERE.

16. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD DISAGREE
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WITH THESE POINTS.

17. WE THEREFORE THINK THAT DISCUSSION OF US AND
SOVIET GROUND FORCES IS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE POINT TO
START OUT DISCUSSIONS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUE IN
THAT THERE ARE FURTHER ELEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND BEARING
ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES.

18. FOR EXAMPLE, DESPITE SOME IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES
AS TO THE METHOD OF REDUCTION, BOTH SIDES ENVISAGE REDUC-
TIONS OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN GROUND FORCES OF MAGNITUDES
WHICH ARE NOT TOO DISSIMILAR.

19. THE WESTERN APPROACH, AS YOU KNOW, CALLS FOR A
WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY FROM THE AREA OF REDUC-

TIONS.

20. THIS WOULD COMPRISE SOME 68,000 MEN. UNDER THE
WESTERN APPROACH THE UNITED STATES WOULD WITHDRAW SOME

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 1348

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

29,000 MEN.

21. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 8 IS SONEWHAT
LESS CLEAR AS TO THE EXACT MAGNITUDE OF THE PROPOSED
REDUCTIONS.

22. HOWEVER, IF ONE ASSUMES THAT THE FIRST STAGE
REDUCTIONS WERE MEANT TO BE SHARED PROPORTIONALLY AMONG
THE PARTICIPANTS, THEN EACH PARTICIPANT WOULD REDUCE
ABOUT 17 PERCENT.

23. ACCORDING TO OUR COMPUTATIONS, THIS WOULD MEAN

A SOVIET REDUCTION OF 78,000 MEN IN THE GROUND FORCES
AND A US REDUCTION OF 33,000 SOLDIERS.

24. THEREFORE, WE CONCLUDE THAT OUR PROPOSED
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PHASE I REDUCTIONS FALL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF YOUR OWN
REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL.

25. THE WESTERN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A SOVIET REDUC-
TION OF 1,700 MAIN BATTLE TANKS. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL
WOULD, AGAIN ACCORDING TO OUR COMPUTATIONS, CALL FOR
A REDUCTION OF ABOUT 1,400 SOVIET TANKS. IT SHOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THIS NUMBER SOMEWHAT.

26. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV
COULD AT HIS CONVENIENCE CONFIRM THAT OUR COMPUTATION
OF THE SIZE OF THE US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS
PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES ON NOVEMBER 8
IS IN FACT CORRECT.

27. I COULD GO FURTHER WITH THIS COMPARISON, BUT
WISHED AT THIS TIME ONLY TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE.

28. WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT WE ARE LOOKING
AT THIS ISSUE OUT OF CONTEXT OF YOUR WHOLE APPROACH.
WE ARE, OF COURSE, ABSTRACTING FROM OUR OWN APPROACH AS
WELL. I REMIND YOU THAT THIS DISCUSSION IS WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO THE SUBSTANTIVE APPROACHES OF EITHER SIDE.
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE ARE TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE
DISCUSSIONS WE MUST ABSTRACT CERTAIN COMMON ELEMENTS
AND FOCUS DISCUSSIONS ON THEM. END TEXT.HUMES

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